



SENIOR & LONG TERM CARE DIVISION COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE Policy Manual

Section: ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES

Subject: Temporary Authorizations

Reference: ARM 37.40.1005 and ARM 37.40.1114

PURPOSE

Temporary authorizations are intended to allow an enrolled Medicaid Community First Choice/Personal Assistance Services (CFC/PAS) provider agency the ability to temporarily authorize CFC/PAS in order to meet the health and safety needs of CFC/PAS members. A temporary authorization enables a provider agency to deliver services on a temporary basis without a Service Profile from Mountain Pacific Quality Health (MPQH) or to expand service authorization in either scope or duration from the MPQH Service Profile. The temporary authorization is limited in duration to 28 days.

A temporary authorization may be used in the following situations:

1. High Risk Intake
2. Short-term Intake
3. Change in Service Need

A provider agency must meet the temporary authorization guidelines in order to bill services without a MPQH Service Profile. If a provider agency does not follow the temporary authorization process to deliver services, repayment will be required.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The service scope and service limits outlined in AB-CFC/PAS 403 and 404 apply to all temporary authorizations. If a provider agency authorizes services that are not allowed in the CFC/PAS program or beyond the service limits of the CFC/PAS program a repayment will occur.
2. The provider agency must document the temporary authorization for services on the member's Service Plan (SLTC-170). The only exception is temporary authorizations that are short-term (i.e. less than seven days). In those circumstances the authorization may be documented on the Service Delivery Record and/or case notes.
3. A provider agency cannot authorize new CFC-only tasks (i.e. community integration, correspondence assistance, yard hazard removal or skill

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acquisition) on a temporary authorization. The only tasks that may be added are ADL tasks, shopping, laundry and household tasks.

4. The Plan Facilitator signature is not required for temporary authorizations. If the Plan Facilitator is known the agency should send the temporary authorization form to the Plan Facilitator.

HIGH RISK INTAKE PROCESS

The high risk intake process is outlined in AB-CFC/PAS 414. The provider agency must complete the Temporary Service Plan Schedule on the Service Plan (SLTC-170) in order to deliver services while awaiting the MPQH Service Profile (SLTC-155).

SHORT-TERM INTAKE

1. A short-term intake is an intake for a member who will need services for 28 days or less. In this case the provider agency does not need to complete a referral to MPQH. If there is any question whether a member will need services for more than 28 days the standard intake process outlined in AB-CFC/PAS 411 should be followed. The provider agency must document the reason why services are expected to be delivered for 28 days or less. If a provider agency fails to justify why a short-term intake is warranted a repayment will occur.
2. The provider agency completes an on-site in-person visit with the member and completes the Service Plan, including the Service Plan Schedule, the comments and special instruction for service plan implementation, and the temporary authorization date span and total authorized time. The provider agency and member must sign the Service Plan. The Plan Facilitator does not need to be present at the intake or sign the Service Plan.

A Person Centered Plan Form (SLTC-200) is not required for a short-term admit.

3. A provider agency can only authorize PAS for short-term admits on the Service Plan. PAS is limited to ADL services, shopping, laundry and household tasks. Members cannot receive CFC services for a short-term intake.
4. The Service Plan must justify the medical and functional need for services. If a Service Plan does not document the medical and functional need for services, a repayment will occur.
5. If the member's situation changes during the implementation of the temporary authorization and there will be a need for services for more than 28 days, a

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referral must be sent to MPQH and the provider agency must follow the process for High Risk (Refer to 414).

CHANGE IN SERVICE NEED

1. Short-term change: If the change is needed for less than seven days, the provider agency may document the change in service need on either the Service Delivery Record and/or case notes.
2. Temporary Change: If the change in need is expected to last seven days or more the provider agency must complete the "Temporary Authorization" section on the member's current Service Plan. The provider agency may only deliver services that are authorized on the current Service Plan and temporary authorization section. If multiple temporary authorizations occur, the agency must complete a new Service Plan and fill out the temporary authorization section. In this case the agency must attach the current Service Plan and reference the current Service Plan Schedule in the temporary authorization section.
 - a. Mark the temporary authorization/amendment box for whatever change is appropriate. If the change is permanent the provider agency should complete an amendment to MPQH. Refer to AB-CFC/PAS 719.
 - b. Describe the ADL/IADL change. The provider agency should review the current Service Plan Schedule and use this box to document the Service Plan Schedule changes that are necessary based on the member's change.
 - i. The provider agency should mark whether they believe the change will be short-term (28 days or less) or permanent.
 - ii. In the box provided the provider agency should document the change that occurred and provide details about the change that is needed from the current Service Plan Schedule to meet the member's new needs. The provider agency should be specific and describe any change in tasks, am/pm and weekly frequency, and increase in time related to these changes.
 - c. The provider agency should indicate the intended start date, end date and total time in units that service will be delivered per bi-weekly period. The provider agency may only deliver a change in services for the time period indicated. A temporary authorization cannot exceed 28 days. The provider

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agency may only bill for the total units indicated on the temporary authorization for the time period indicated.

- i. The provider agency Nurse Supervisor must sign off on the temporary service plan by placing their signature and date in the temporary authorization date span.
- d. Once the temporary authorization span ends the provider agency must revert back to the current Service Plan Schedule (i.e. the Service Plan prior to the temporary authorization).
- e. If a provider agency needs to extend the temporary authorization beyond the end date the agency must fax an amendment request to MPQH prior to the end date indicated on the temporary authorization span.
 - i. If a provider agency faxes an amendment to MPQH prior to the end date they must indicate the date the amendment was faxed to MPQH. Once this is completed the provider agency may continue to provide services according to the temporary service authorization until MPQH completes the amendment request. Refer to AB-CFC/PAS 718 for information on Amendments.